

**Sample Paper 4****Score for Ideas \_\_\_\_\_****Is Pluto a Planet?**

Nine – one = eight. There used to be nine planets, but now there are eight. That's because Pluto has been downgraded out of the premium package, and been sent to the planet minor leagues. Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune are now considered the only planets in our solar system.

Pluto was discovered in 1930. This is the same year that Walt Disney introduced Pluto the dog, a now famous character and friend of Mickey Mouse. It is not true that the planet was named after the dog. The cartoon character Pluto was named after the planet instead of the other way around. The name Pluto was given to the planet by an eleven-year-old English girl named Venetia Burney. She was really into Greek and Roman mythology. Pluto is the Roman god of the underworld. In Greek mythology, his name is Hades. Venetia's grandfather knew a college professor in England who passed the name on to a friend at the Lowell Observatory in Arizona. This is where the planet Pluto (or former planet Pluto) was first discovered by looking through a giant telescope.

Astronomers now say that Pluto does not fit the newest rules for what makes a planet a regular planet. Pluto is now called a dwarf planet.